two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Reseach (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata and Pune which apart from carrying out frontline and internationally-competitive research, would offer M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically-flexible and research-oriented environment. Various agencies of Government of India have now attractive scholarship, fellowship and research support schemes for scientific manpower of all ages starting right from the school-level. The Government has also started some novel programmes to make our higher educational institutions professionally even more useful for developing technology. The DST programme of manpower development in collaboration with industry enhances the quality of technical education and makes it relevant for the industry through well-designed courses developed in close association with participating industries. A large network of S&T Entrepreneurship Parks and Technology Business Incubators has been established to synergize the technical expertise of engineering institutions and the commercial spirit of entrepreneurs for technology development and commercialization. A large number of technology development projects are now being jointly undertaken by higher educational institutions and industries. All these are strong pointers towards improvement in indigenous capabilities for technology development. In addition, the specialized departments such as Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) have their strong in-house research infrastructure to carry out research in many different areas to meet specific needs and also in cutting edge areas. These departments also promote scientific research through extramural funding.

(c) There are 822 research institutes and centres under various Central Government Departments and Central Public Undertakings which are working in different areas of science and technology in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Changes in Guidelines on power capacity addition

*390. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have asked Government to make easier the guidelines of 19th January, 2005;

(b) what exactly are the problems cited by State Governments in building-up power capacities;

(c) to what extent has it become apparent that many States do not have administrative capacity to really get the power plants built;

(d) the manner in which Government will try to ensure that safe and environment friendly power plants come up; and

(e) the steps proposed to help Andhra Pradesh to build power plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Government of Maharashtra have made a request to the Central Government for amending the guidelines dated 19th January 2005 so as to provide a time frame of about 270 days, instead of the 425 days time-frame as provided in the guidelines, for completing the two stage bid process for long term procurement of electricity.

(b) to (d) 6244.64 MW of new capacity has been added in the State sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Out of this 660 MW has been added in Andhra Pradesh. Further, power projects of 16,672 MW are under implementation in various States. On the basis of latest information available with Central Electricity Authority, on 31.3.2007, out of the total installed capacity of 1,32,329 MW, 70,096 MW representing 53% of the total is in the State Sector. Furthermore, it is envisaged that out of the target of 78,577 MW for the Eleventh Plan, 27,952 MW representing 36% of the target will come up in the State Sector.

The States have mainly requested for allocation of fuel linkage, that is coal linkage, coal blocks and supply of Natural Gas as well as early environmental clearance for the power projects. Some of the States have also approached Power Finance Corporation for consultancy for tariff based bidding for power projects.

The Ministry of Power has a coordination mechanism in place for expediting allocation of fuel linkages and expediting environmental clearances on periodical basis. The Ministry has also issued Standard Bidding Documents to facilitate the process of tariff based bidding. Power Finance Corporation has also been designated as the nodal agency for the development of large power plants, namely the Ultra Mega Power Plants (UMPP), through the private sector, for sharing power among different States.

The Central Electricity Authority provides necessary technical advice to the States whenever called upon to do so. Safety measures have been prescribed in the statutory rules. The National Electricity Policy states that full compliance with prescribed environmental norms and standards must be achieved in operations of all generating plants. Supercritical technology having higher efficiency, and correspondingly lower emissions, has been adopted for Ultra Mega Power Plants (UMPP).

(e) The proposed Krishnapatnam UMPP based on imported coal is in Andhra Pradesh. To facilitate building of power plants in Andhra Pradesh as well as timely commissioning of the plants, coal blocks/linkages have been allotted to various plants in the State. Linkage has been granted to Bhopalapally Power Plant, Vijaywada Thermal Power Project (TPP), Simhadri Extension, Kothagudem Stage-V and Krishnapatnam TPP. Coal block has also been allotted to Kakatiya Extension project.

Review of the Constitution

*391. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal before Government to review the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to consult the political parties, State Governments etc. before proceeding with such a review, particularly in view of the fact that such a review was already undertaken in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. However, the Report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution was circulated to various Ministries/ Departments to examine and process the recommendations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mandatory Approval of Technical and Professional Institutions

*392. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for any institution conducting technical or